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Kennedy Recalls CIA Boss

The New York Times

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WASHINGTON — President Kennedy was reliably reported today to have recalled "for consultations" the head of the Central Intelligence Agency operations in South Viet Nam, presumably to end his policy dispute with Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge.

Persons familiar with State Department operations in Saigon confirmed reports from there that Lodge had requested the replacement of the CIA chief John H. Richardson. They expressed doubts that Richardson would be sent back to Saigon.

Lodge's appeal for a new intelligence agent with new instructions was said to have been conveyed to the President by Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara. The secretary, who visited Viet Nam with Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor, chairman of the Joint

Chiefs of Staff, is believed to have endorsed the request.

The ambassador apparently complained that his own position as head of the American mission in Viet Nam was inconsistent with the separate operations of his intelligence chief.

He was said to feel that a new man should be appointed and instructed to confine himself to the gathering and analysis of intelligence information.

Richardson, according to reports from Saigon, not only gathered information but worked closely on operational matters with Ngo Dinh Nhu, the brother and most influential adviser to President Ngo Dinh Diem.

Lodge's objections were said to center on Richardson's conception of his job, not with his performance as such. Published reports of a clash of personalities or insubordination have been denied here.

To some extent, however, the policy differences are part of a larger dispute among different American agencies and officials here and in Viet Nam. Broadly, these differences have arisen from different views about the attitudes that should be displayed toward repressive measures by the Saigon regime.

Some argue that nothing must be done to undermine the war against Communist-led guerrillas; others believe the war cannot be won unless the Ngo Dinh family is forced to make political reforms.